

Charles Cachia *

ON THE OCCURENCE OF *PHASEOLUS GUILONARDI* HOEKSEMA, 1993
(FAM. PHASEOLIDAE SCARLATO & STAROBOGATOV, 1971) IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN @

KEY WORDS: Bivalvia, Protobranchia, Phaseolidae, *Phaseolus*, Mediterranean distribution, new record

Summary:

The recently described *Phaseolus guilonardi* Hoeksema, 1993 is recorded for the first time from Mediterranean waters.

Riassunto:

Viene segnalato per la prima volta in Mediterraneo *Phaseolus guilonardi* Hoeksema, 1993.

Introduction

According to SABELLI *et al.* (1990: 70), the Mediterrean representatives of the genus *Phaseolus* Seguenza 1877, ex Jeffreys ms. (not Monterosato 1875 ex Jeffreys ms. see Warén 1980: 12) are three in number: *Phaseolus ovatus* Seguenza G. 1877 ex Jeffreys ms., *P. pusillus* (Jeffreys, 1879) and *P. tumidulus* (Monterosato, 1880). The second mentioned species was however tentatively transferred to *Yoldiella* Verrill & Bush, 1897 by BOWDEN & HEPPELL (1960: 113).

Recently HOEKSEMA (1993) described a new species from the North Sea: *Phaseolus guilonardi*. Apart from the Recent material, other specimens were found in Holocene deposits from the same area. Subsequently the species was also found in N. Brittany and W. Normandy, France (HOEKSEMA in litt.).

Material & Methods

Using a low-power stereomicroscope, I had recently the occasion to study a small quantity of fine shell detritus taken in 400-500 mt. off W. Capraia I., Arcip. Toscana, Italy. Among other species, a couple of fresh right valves of a *Phaseolus* species were found which did not seem to be conspecific with either *P. ovatus* or *P. tumidulus*. These were tentatively assigned to *P. guilonardi*.

(*) 1, Alley 1, St. Catherine Str. Qormi, Malta
@ Lavoro accettato il 15 novembre 1994

Results

The smaller of the two valves was sent to Hoeksema for examination and he confirmed the identity of the specimen with his own specimens of *P. guilonardi*. The measurements of the two valves are: 0.6 x 0.87 mm (h/d: 0.68) and 0.88 x 1.3 mm (h/d: 0.67). Hoeksema's specimens were 0.40-0.57 mm high, 0.58-0.80 mm long. Thus Mediterranean specimens would seem to grow slightly larger. However, whereas Hoeksema's Recent material came from washed-up or shallow water stations, the bathymetric range of the Mediterranean population would seem to be a deeper one, the species appearing to inhabit bathyal depths. The allied *P. tumidulus* was also found in the same station, but in far greater numbers. *Yoldiella pusilla* (Jeffreys, 1879) was also sparingly found. For description of *P. guilonardi* and discussion thereon see HOEKSEMA, 1993.

For the sake of clarity and completeness, then, the genus *Phaseolus* Seguenza, 1877 ex Jeffreys ms. is represented in Mediterranean waters by the following species:

Phaseolus guilonardi Hoeksema, 1993

Phaseolus ovatus Seguenza G. 1877 ex Jeffreys ms.

Phaseolus tumidulus (Monterosato, 1880)

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my thanks to C. Mifsud for donating the shell detritus from Arcip. Toscano and to D. Hoeksema for confirming the identity of material sent to him and for supplying helpful notes.

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